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REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

Results of Work Group Sessions September 6-7, 1978 Albuquerque, New Mexico

**Co-sponsored by:
U.S. Department of Agriculture and
Community Services Administration**

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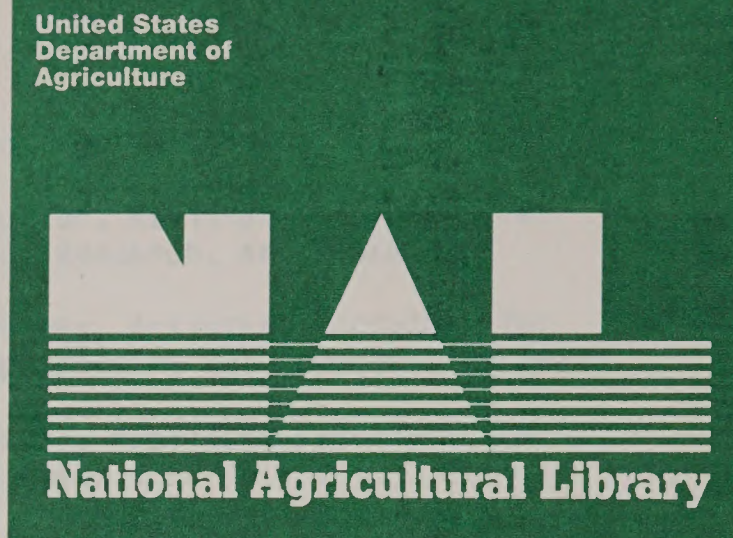
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REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

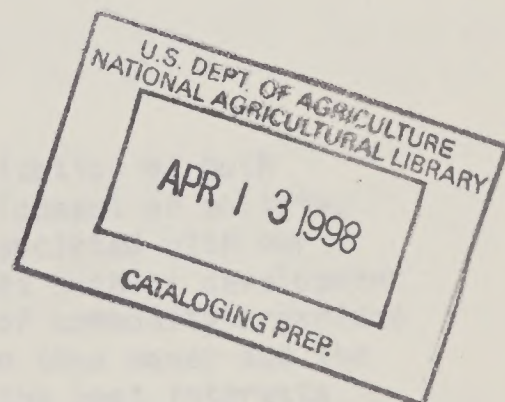
The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Community Services Administration (CSA) are co-sponsoring this regional small farms conference in cooperation with ACTION. The conference is designed to:

- Provide small farm operators an opportunity to identify problems that are important to their farm operations and families.
- Develop priority needs and suggest programs that will benefit small farm operators and their families.
- Identify what small farm operators need, as contrasted with what other farmers need.

Follow-up from the conference will include a regional report and national summary of the five conferences. The information and recommendations from the conferences will be used to determine what administrative changes need to be made in USDA and CSA, and as the basis for new legislation and an administration policy for small farmers.

This computer report was prepared by:

J. G. Massey, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
C. A. Fasick, U. S. Forest Service, Washington Office





REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

THE SMALL FARM ISSUE

BOB BERGLAND, Secretary of Agriculture

For too long, we have heard predictions that the small farmer will soon become extinct as those farm families are forced from the land. It has been a trend, but I am committed to improve USDA programs to better serve the small farm family and halt that trend.

We believe the small farm family in America is basic to a healthy farm and rural economy.

We believe the farm family is still the basis of a desirable pattern for American agricultural and rural living in this nation.

We will be listening to the farmer delegates attending these Small Farm Conferences and to their suggestions and recommendations. There will be follow-up action where we can identify changes that need to be made to help small farmers.

GRACIELA OLIVAREZ, Director of Community Services Administration

The Community Services Administration, as the national advocate for the low-income and economically disadvantaged, recognizes the critical need to assist low-income farmers and their families in improving their economic condition and quality of life through resource mobilization, delivery of services and improved access to Federal, state and local services and programs.

SAM BROWN, Director of ACTION

In a large sense our futures are inseparable.

At ACTION we are committed to the notion that the revitalization of both rural and urban communities depends primarily on the development of policies and practices that are smaller in scale than those now associated with our government. This commitment to smallness embraces concepts such as development of technologies more useful to family farms, development of community-organized programs that rely more on people's energy and imagination than money and the scaling down of government to make it more responsive to the best interests of its citizens.

If you can stay small and, with some help from us, find a way to prosper then I believe our approach to problems will also succeed.

RUPERT CUTLER, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture
for Conservation, Research and Education

We have programs of conservation, research and education for the small farm family. In spite of these programs, we are not reaching enough small farm families with conservation and research information through our educational channels.

Do small farm operators need conservation and research programs different from other farmers?

Do small farm families need a different educational approach--more one-to-one contact with a para-professional than group contact?

We expect the Small Farm Conference work groups of farmer delegates to provide guidelines to answer these and related questions with an indication of priority needs. Then, we can propose and move ahead with administrative and legislative changes.

DALE HATHAWAY, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture
for International Affairs and Commodity Programs

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service conducts the USDA farm program for cost sharing programs with all farmers that install needed soil, water, workland and wildlife conserving practices. We will be very interested to see what the Small Farm Conferences can identify in the cost sharing programs that should be changed to better serve the small farm operator.

The Federal Crop Insurance Program provides farmers in counties where available with all-risk insurance that repays production costs of crop loss because of bad weather, insects, disease and other unavoidable natural causes. This program is structured to serve all farmers, and we welcome suggestions on how to extend the Federal Crop Insurance Program to more small farmers.

ALEX MERCURE, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development

Listening to the men and women and minorities who operate the small farms in America make the five regional Small Farm Conferences an opportunity for the Secretary of Agriculture and his staff to have grass roots input from the people needing help in the rural community.

We believe that rural development in the states is synonymous with improving the quality of living and increasing income for the small farm family.

The Department of Agriculture has rural development programs such as the loan programs of the Farmers Home Administration which are designed to aid the small farm operator. We anticipate the conferences will identify any inadequacies in programs that will help us make them more accessible for the small farmer. We will make every effort to change and initiate needed programs.

JOAN WALLACE, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration

This administration is interested in co-sponsoring conferences on small farm problems not because there are many small farms, but because they represent many people--over 60 percent of all farmers!

What we need to keep in focus is that people on these small farms live and toil, raise families, have hope and ambition, contribute to society, and produce food and fiber for the nation.

We prefer to think about the small farm problem as a matter of families--not statistics. We believe that the people who are in need of help also have some knowledge of how help might be structured to give the most benefit for the least dollars invested. In other words, we believe suggestions and counsel from small farm families can be highly beneficial in the decision and legislative process where USDA represents your concerns and needs. We are dedicated to providing equal opportunities for agricultural services.

HOWARD HJORT, Director of Economics, Policy Analysis and Budget

Information gathered from these regional conferences will help USDA's Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service improve Federal agricultural data systems to better serve the needs of small farmers. In addition, more knowledge about the characteristics and needs of the small farm operator and his family will help Department officials improve programs to increase family income from both farm and nonfarm sources.

Besides research, the Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service provides technical assistance to help farmers market their products and purchase supplies cooperatively. We hope that what we learn from these Conferences will enable us to make these programs more useful to small farmers.

We are committed to making every effort to see that our work serves the interests of small farm families.

JOHN LEWIS, Associate Director, Domestic Operations for ACTION

We are happy to be allied with the Department of Agriculture and the Community Services Administration for this important "listen and learn" conference. Both agencies have helped us to develop successful volunteer programs for rural America.

ACTION has volunteers in the field today assisting small farmers on production and marketing problems. Many more volunteers are working in rural areas to improve housing, education, recreation and health services and to provide help for the frail elderly.

There is still much to be done. We welcome your ideas and look forward to the development of dynamic solutions to problems of family farms.

STU HUNTIGTON, Four Corners Regional Commission

The Four Corners Regional Commission is a State-Federal partnership organization. In addition to working with small communities in meeting the challenges of development, the Commission has responded to numerous requests to aid in providing irrigation water to small farms and ranches. The Commission will continue to work in solving the many problems which face the rural regions of the Southwest.



REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

PROBLEM RATINGS; Delegates in their working groups rated the importance of the problems they identified on a scale of 1 to 5. A "5" meant the problem was of utmost importance. A "1" indicated lowest importance. A zero rating, or no rating at all, meant the delegate had no opinion. The problem ratings shown below are averages of the delegates' ratings.

WORKING GROUP I (A) PRODUCTION

PROBLEM RANK	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	AVERAGE PROBLEM RATING
1	HIGH PRODUCTION COSTS VS. LOW NET RETURN.	4.56
2	FARM LABOR SHORTAGES DURING CRITICAL PERIODS.	4.43
3	THE FEDERAL PRICE SUPPORTS ARE TOO LOW.	4.43
4	THE COST OF ENERGY FOR PRODUCTION IS TOO HIGH.	4.38
5	THE POLICIES OF THE ENERGY ADMINISTRATION DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AGRICULTURE.	4.22
6	FARM PRICES ARE BEING MANIPULATED BY BIG MONEY INTERESTS.	4.00
7	DEVELOP A MECHANISM FOR GREATER ASSISTANCE TO SMALL FARMERS IN PRODUCTION COSTS.	3.89
8	HIGH COST OF EQUIPMENT AND REPAIRS IN RELATION TO PRODUCT VALUE.	3.89
9	COSTS OF PEST AND WEED CONTROL TOO HIGH.	3.89
10	REMOVE TAX BENEFITS FROM CORPORATIONS UNLESS PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME IS FARMING.	3.88



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11	GOVERNMENT PREDATOR CONTROLLERS NOT DOING THEIR JOBS.	3.88
12	DRASTIC INCREASE IN PRICE OF FARM LAND.	3.78
13	SMALL FARMERS SOMETIMES PAY MORE FOR EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES THAN LARGE PRODUCERS.	3.78
14	FARM LABOR COSTS PLACE AN EXCESSIVE BURDEN ON THE FARMER.	3.75
15	THERE IS NO BAN OF CROPS SPRAYED WITH PESTICIDES BANNED IN U.S.	3.75
16	HIGH INTEREST RATES.	3.56
17	DEVELOP A SPECIAL LONG-TERM, LOW INTEREST RATE LOAN TO ASSIST SMALL FARMERS PAY INCREASING COSTS FOR PUMPING IRRIGATION WATER.	3.43
18	PROVIDE COST SHARING ASSISTANCE THROUGH ACP PROGRAMS FOR PERIMETER FENCING.	3.43
19	THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH SPANISH-SPEAKING PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS.	3.40
20	IRRIGATION DAMS FOR DITCH SYSTEMS ARE INADEQUATE.	3.33



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WORKING GROUP II (B) MANAGEMENT

PROBLEM RANK	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	AVERAGE PROBLEM RATING
1	SMALL FARMERS DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SOUND MANAGEMENT ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: A. TECHNICAL AREAS, B. RECORD KEEPING, C. INCOME AND OTHER TAXES, D. FINANCIAL STATEMENT (PROFIT-LOSS), E. CURRENT LAWS, F. MARKETING, G. LABOR MANAGEMENT, AND H. PRODUCTION COSTS.	4.13
2	SMALL FARMERS LACK GOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.	3.88
3	SMALL FARMERS NEED TRAINING IN MAKING PURCHASING DECISIONS IN REGARD TO CAPITAL PURCHASES (CONSUMER TYPE INFORMATION).	3.88
4	NEED TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ON USDA PROGRAMS.	3.14
5	SMALL FARMERS MUST COMPETE WITH LARGE FARMERS AND "HOBBY" FARMERS WHO ENJOY BEING ABLE TO SHOW OPERATING LOSSES FOR 4 YEARS FOR TAX PURPOSES.	2.88
6	SMALL FARMERS MUST COMPETE WITH WELFARE PROGRAMS SUCH AS COMPREHENSIVE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT AND NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS FOR LABOR, CAUSING POTENTIAL AGRICULTURAL LABOR TO DRY UP.	2.57



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WORKING GROUP III (C) MARKETING

PROBLEM RANK	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	AVERAGE PROBLEM RANKING
1	NEED TO ELIMINATE MANIPULATION OF MAJOR MARKETS: A) BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, B) BIG GRAIN COMPANIES AND BOARD OF TRADE, C) BY BIG RETAIL MARKET CHAINS, AND D) BY MAJOR PACKERS.	5.00
2	MARKETING SMALL FARM PRODUCTION PLACES THE SMALL FARMER AT A DISTINCT DISADVANTAGE IN COMPETING WITH LARGER OPERATORS.	4.91
3	GOVERNMENT IMPORT-EXPORT POLICIES IMPOSE GRAVE HARDSHIPS ON FARMERS: A) NEED A BAN ON IMPORT OF CROPS SPRAYED WITH PESTICIDES BANNED IN U.S. AND WHICH DO NOT MEET DOMESTIC U.S. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING STANDARDS, AND B) NEED FOR LABELLING OF ALL IMPORTED AGRICULTURAL GOODS, ESPECIALLY MEAT PRODUCTS.	4.91
4	FEDERAL PRICE CONTROL OF BEEF AND GRAIN PRICES BY PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS OR USDA PRESS STATEMENTS SHOULD BE STOPPED OR APPLIED ACROSS THE BOARD.	4.91
5	ESTABLISH A FAIR MARKET PRICE FOR ALL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS THAT IS EQUAL TO COSTS OF PRODUCTION PLUS A FAIR MARGIN OF PROFIT.	4.91
6	SMALL FARMERS NET RETURN FROM HIS PRODUCTION IS SO LOW THAT HE IS BEING FORCED OUT OF FARMING.	4.82
7	FMHA LOAN PROCESSING DELAYS PROHIBIT SMALL FARMERS FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF CERTAIN MARKETING SITUATIONS, SUCH AS SALE OF FERTILIZERS AND SALE OF CATTLE.	4.82
8	DO NOT RE-ESTABLISH BASE PRICING FOR MILK.	4.73



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| 9 | USDA SHOULD LAUNCH A MASSIVE, ON-GOING PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN SHOWING HOW MUCH OF RETAIL FOOD PRICES ACTUALLY GO TO THE FARMER. | 4.73 |
| 10 | NEED FOR EQUITABLE BARGAINING SYSTEM BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND PACKERS. | 4.64 |
| 11 | NEED TO IMPLEMENT FEDERAL ANTI-TRUST LAWS AT ALL LEVELS. | 4.64 |
| 12 | OFF-FARM PRODUCT CONTAMINATION REFLECTS POORLY ON FARMER AND DEPRESSES EXPORT PRICES AND REDUCES OVERSEAS MARKETS. EXPORTERS SHOULD HAVE TO MEET SAME CONTAMINATION STANDARDS AS PRODUCERS. | 4.45 |
| 13 | FOREIGN AID FUNDS ARE BEING USED TO AID FOREIGN PRODUCERS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE AMERICAN FARMER, AS IS THE CASE WITH THE IMPORT OF MEXICAN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. | 4.27 |
| 14 | LOW PRICES ON MANY FARM COMMODITIES GREATLY REDUCE THE NET RETURN TO SMALL FARMERS. | 4.18 |
| 15 | NEED TO IMPOSE COMPENSATING TARIFFS ON IMPORTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WHICH ARE SUBSIDIZED BY GOVERNMENTS IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN; TAX MONIES WILL BE USED TO IMPROVE USDA SERVICES. IN THE EVENT THAT THIS CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED FOR POLITICAL REASONS, THEN THE COMPENSATING AMOUNT OF TARIFF THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ASSESSED SHOULD BE PAID TO PRODUCERS ON A PRO RATED BASIS. | 4.18 |
| 16 | NEED FOR MARKETING OUTLETS AND FACILITIES FOR SMALL FARMERS. | 4.09 |
| 17 | EXPORT MARKETS SHOULD BE INCREASED IN A WAY THAT BALANCE IMPORT-EXPORT TRADE. | 4.00 |
| 18 | MARKETING RESTRICTIONS ON PAPAYA AND MILK. (HAWAII) | 3.82 |
| 19 | PROHIBIT THE USE OF NON-SCHEDULED SIZES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES BY PACKERS. | 3.82 |
| 20 | INADEQUATE ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION TO MARKETS, ESPECIALLY PRODUCTS FROM HAWAII. | 3.73 |



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WORKING GROUP IV (D)
ACCESS TO CAPITAL & CREDIT

PROBLEM RANK	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	AVERAGE PROBLEM RATING
1	LENDING AGENCIES NEED TO LOAN MORE MONEY LOCALLY AT A LOWER INTEREST RATE AND FOR A LONGER TERM TO SMALL FARMERS (1% OR LESS).	5.00
2	INSUFFICIENT FINANCING AVAILABLE TO NEW AND SMALL LIMITED-RESOURCE FARMERS.	4.83
3	FMHA TAKES TOO LONG TO PROCESS LOANS.	4.67
4	CREDIT LIMITS ON GOVERNMENT LOANS AND PROGRAMS SHOULD RISE PROPORTIONATELY WITH PRODUCTION AND LIVING COSTS.	4.50
5	SMALL FARMERS NEED MORE FLEXIBILITY IN LENDING POLICIES AND CREDIT TERMS TO MEET SPECIAL OR EMERGENCY SITUATION.	4.33
6	NEED FOR 100 PERCENT FINANCING ON LONG TERM, LOW-INTEREST LOANS.	4.33
7	FMHA APPRAISALS ON REAL ESTATE ARE BELOW ACTUAL MARKET VALUE.	4.33
8	TAX DEDUCTION AND INVESTMENT CREDITS ON FARM OPERATIONS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO FAMILY FARMS AND FAMILY SIZED FARMING CORPORATIONS.	4.33
9	FMHA SHOULD MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR REAL ESTATE IMPROVEMENTS ON LEASE-HOLD LAND.	4.17
10	THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT TAX CREDITS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AVAILABLE TO SMALL FARMERS.	3.83



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| 11 | FMHA NEEDS EXPERIENCED SPECIALISTS TO MAKE AND SERVICE FARM LOANS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. | 3.67 |
| 12 | LENDING INSTITUTIONS DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE FOR SMALL FARMERS TO OPERATE ECONOMICALLY, THEREFORE LARGE FARMERS HAVE ACCESS TO CREDIT AND CAPITAL THAT SMALL FARMERS DO NOT HAVE. | 3.67 |
| 13 | SMALL FAMILY FARMERS SHOULD RECEIVE A TAX WRITE-OFF FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SUBSIDIZED BY GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS. | 3.67 |
| 14 | THERE SHOULD BE STANDARDIZATION OF LOAN APPLICATION FORMS AND PROCEDURES BETWEEN AGENCIES AND LOCAL LENDERS. | 3.50 |
| 15 | THERE IS INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO SMALL FARMERS ON CREDIT PROGRAMS FROM GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SOURCES. | 3.50 |
| 16 | FMHA SHOULD HAVE LOAN FUNDS AVAILABLE EARLY ENOUGH IN THE CROP YEAR TO BE OF MAXIMUM USE. | 3.33 |
| 17 | INSUFFICIENT FINANCING AVAILABLE TO INDIAN FARMERS. | 3.17 |
| 18 | USDA DISSASTER PROGRAMS SHOULD NOT PENALIZE GOOD SMALL FARMERS WITH PROPER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. | 3.17 |
| 19 | SMALL FARMERS NEED LOWER INTEREST RATES ON ASCS LOAN PROGRAMS FOR CONSTRUCTING FARM STORAGE FACILITIES. | 2.83 |
| 20 | CAPITAL SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SMALL, LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS ON A GRANT BASIS. | 2.80 |



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WORKING GROUP V (E) LAND USE

PROBLEM RANK	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	AVERAGE PROBLEM RATING
1	LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND TO URBAN USES.	4.80
2	RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS.	4.80
3	COST OF FARMLAND IS EXORBITANTLY HIGH.	4.60
4	(HAWAII) LAND USE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE IN HAWAII - FARM LAND IS ALMOST UNAVAILABLE FOR SMALL FARMERS.	4.40
5	REDUCTION OF MULTIPLE USE PUBLIC LANDS BY WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS.	4.40
6	FOREST SALES OF LAND AND WATER FOR PUBLIC INT- EREST.	4.33
7	COMPETITION FOR USING PRIME FARM LAND IN NON-FARM ENTERPRISES.	4.20
8	NEW DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR POLICIES DEALING WITH THE 160 ACRE LIMITATION ARE AFFECTING DETRI- MENTALLY ALL RECLAMATION PROJECTS DEALING WITH IRRIGATION, ESPECIALLY DETRIMENTAL IS THE LOTTERY, NUMBER LEASING POLICY, AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT CLAUSES, PLUS THE MORATORIUM ON ALL EXCESS LAND SALES.	4.20
9	THE HIGH PERCENT OF PUBLICALLY OWNED LAND IN THE SOUTHWEST CAUSES PROBLEMS OF LAND USE RESTRICTIONS AND INCREASED COSTS OF PRIVATE LAND.	4.20
10	FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN U.S. LAND INFLATES LAND PRICES.	4.17



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11	NO MORE EXPANSION OF PUBLIC LAND.	4.17
12	RESTRICTIONS OF PRIVATE LAND USE IN CHECKERBOARD SITUATIONS.	4.17
13	ENACT STATE LEGISLATION THAT GUARANTEES PRE-SERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS.	4.00
14	HIGH LAND TAXES.	3.83
15	AGRICULTURAL HISTORICAL USES ARE NOT PROTECTED ON GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED LAND.	3.83
16	IMPLEMENT A MAJOR PROJECT TO RESOLVE THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS AFFECTING LAND TITLES IN THE SOUTHWEST.	3.80
17	LAND UNAVAILABLE FOR SMALL FARMERS TO BUY.	3.67
18	LAND LEASE ARRANGEMENTS ARE INADEQUATE AND TOO SHORT TERM FOR EFFECTIVE FARMING OR RANCHING.	3.67
19	PRESENT ZONING LAWS HURT SMALL FARMER.	3.17
20	CERTAIN LAND USE POLICIES TO PROTECT AGRICULTURAL LAND DISCRIMINATES AGAINST SMALL FARMERS (EXAMPLE: COMPEL TO BUY MORE THAN 40 ACRES. CAN NOT ADD ON ONLY A LITTLE AT A TIME).	3.00



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WORKING GROUP VI (F) WATER

PROBLEM RANK	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	AVERAGE PROBLEM RATING
1	COSTS OF ENERGY FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES.	4.86
2	RAPIDLY INCREASING COSTS FOR USE OF WATER IN AGRICULTURE.	4.57
3	160 ACRE LIMITATION NOT REALISTIC FOR ALL SMALL FARMERS IN FARMING AREAS.	4.50
4	THERE IS NOT ADEQUATE WATER FOR SMALL FARMS IN SOUTHWEST REGION.	4.43
5	LOSS OF SMALL FARM WATER RIGHTS TO NON-AGRICULTURAL USES INCLUDING: A. RECREATION, B. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, C. MUNICIPAL USES, D. UNREASONABLE ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION DEMAND.	4.43
6	DELAY IN RESOLUTION OF 160 ACRE QUESTION CAUSING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP FOR PRODUCERS.	4.33
7	CURRENT ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL PUBLIC DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WESTERN WATER PROBLEMS.	4.29
8	FORCED SALE OF SMALL FARMERS' WATER FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT.	4.29
9	PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL FARMERS FOR ACQUIRING WATER RIGHTS.	4.14
10	CLEAN WATER ACT (SEC. 208) IS BEING HANDLED POLITICALLY RATHER THAN USING EXISTING COUNTY STRUCTURES.	4.14.



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11	SMALL FARMER HAS LIMITED VOICE IN DECISIONS ON THE USE OF WATER.	4.00
12	REDUCTION IN THE AVAILABILITY OF WATER FOR AGRICULTURE TO SUPPORT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.	3.86
13	INDIAN TRIBES NEED FINANCING AND PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THEIR WATER RESOURCES. (PROBLEM FOR ALL SMALL FARMERS)	3.86
14	RESOLVE LEGAL QUESTIONS INVOLVING WATER RIGHTS.	3.86
15	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT USES OF WATER SHOULD BE TREATED THE SAME AS INDIVIDUALS AS APPLIED UNDER STATE LAW.	3.86
16	ON-FARM LIVING REQUIREMENT NOT REASONABLE IN ALL SITUATIONS.	3.86
17	MISUSE OF WATER IS AN INCREASING CONCERN TO THE SMALL FARMERS.	3.86
18	USE OF WATER FOR AGRICULTURE VS. RECREATION.	3.83
19	FEDERAL REGULATION OF WATER RIGHTS ADVERSELY AFFECT SMALL FARMERS.	3.71
20	CONCERN FOR PROTECTION OF UNDERGROUND WATER SUPPLY.	3.71



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WORKING GROUP VII (G) SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INCOME

PROBLEM RANK	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	AVERAGE PROBLEM RATING
1	FARMERS NEED 100% PARITY PRICE FOR PRODUCT TO ELIMINATE NEED FOR OFF-FARM INCOME.	4.57
2	INITIATE A PROGRAM ALLOWING A REDUCED RATE OF PERSONAL INCOME TAX PAID BY SMALL FARMERS RESULTING FROM OFF-FARM EMPLOYMENT.	4.00
3	MORE LOANS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR VENTURE CAPITAL.	3.86
4	PREPARE A "SKILLS INVENTORY" OF SMALL FARMERS FOR USE BY NON-FARM EMPLOYERS.	3.00
5	DEVELOP A SYSTEM FOR HELPING SMALL FARMERS ACQUIRE OFF-FARM EMPLOYMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR INCOME FROM AGRICULTURE.	2.86
6	SCHEDULE TWO-WEEK ON-FARM CONFERENCES WHERE INTERESTED CITIZENS CAN LEARN THE BASICS OF FOOD PRODUCTION IN ORDER THAT THEY, IN TURN, CAN GROW A PORTION OF THEIR FOOD AT HOME. BOTH BEGINNING AND ADVANCED COURSES CAN BE OFFERED, ON A FEE BASIS.	1.71



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WORKING GROUP VIII (H) AGENCY REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES

PROBLEM RANK	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	ANALYSIS PROBLEM RANKING
1	FMHA LOAN LIMITATIONS ARE TOO RESTRICTIVE.	4.60
2	LACK OF PEOPLE MAKING DECISIONS WHO UNDERSTAND LOCAL PROBLEMS.	4.60
3	SYSTEM OF FEDERAL TAXATION FORCES HEAVY TAXES OR UNNEEDED EXTENDED INVESTMENT IN GOOD PRODUCTION YEARS.	4.60
4	FARM LAND TAXED ON MARKET VALUE INSTEAD OF PRODUCTION.	4.60
5	REVISE TAX LAWS IN A MANNER THAT WILL ENABLE SMALL FARMERS' CHILDREN TO INHERIT THEIR PARENTS' FARM AND AVOID, DELAY, OR DIMINISH PAYMENT OF EXCESSIVE INHERITANCE TAXES.	4.40
6	DELAY IN GETTING INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO PRODUCERS.	4.40
7	FREQUENT CHANGES IN FARM PROGRAM GUIDELINES MAKE FARM MANAGEMENT MORE DIFFICULT.	4.40
8	USE OF NON-AGRICULTURAL PERSONNEL IN DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS.	4.40
9	EXCESSIVE TIME REQUIRED IN ACQUIRING GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL FINANCING.	4.20
10	LACK OF INFORMATION AT LOCAL LEVEL ON GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS.	4.20



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11	FMHA COUNTY COMMITTEE DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH AUTHORITY FOR APPROVING LOANS.	4.00
12	REAPPRAISAL OF FARMLAND RESULTS IN HIGHER TAXES.	3.80
13	FMHA FUNDING IS INADEQUATE.	3.80
14	LACK OF EVALUATION SYSTEM TO REPORT ABILITY OF AGENCY STAFF AT LOCAL LEVEL.	3.80
15	BAD INFORMATION PROVIDED CONSUMERS BY GOVERNMENT OR RETAILERS CAUSE UNDUE FLUCTUATION IN FARM INCOME.	3.80
16	LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN AGENCIES CAUSES RED TAPE, REPETITION AND CONFLICTING DECISIONS.	3.80
17	NO SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SHOULD BE GIVEN PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION. (INDIANS, ETC.)	3.80
18	LACK OF FARMER/ADVISORS TO USDA WASHINGTON, D.C.	3.60
19	THERE IS WIDESPREAD ABUSE OF FMHA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL LOANS (TO BUSINESS CHAINS).	3.60
20	SET-ASIDE PROGRAM DISCRIMINATES AGAINST THE SMALL FARMER.	3.40



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WORKING GROUP IX (I)
GOVERNMENT FARM POLICIES

PROBLEM RANK	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	AVERAGE PROBLEM RATING
1	IN CONSULTATION WITH SMALL FARM DELEGATES DEVELOP PROCEDURE FOR INSURING SMALL FARM REPRESENTATION AT CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS ON FARM LEGISLATION AND APPROPRIATIONS.	4.86
2	FEDERAL AND STATE INHERITANCE TAX STRUCTURE NEEDS CHANGE TO ALLOW FARMS TO BE PASSED ON TO SPOUSE OR CHILDREN WITHOUT HAVING TO LIQUIDATE TO PAY TAX.	4.71
3	AGRICULTURAL LAND SHOULD BE TAXED ACCORDING TO ITS USE RATHER THAN ON INFLATED VALUES ATTRIBUTABLE TO URBAN OR NON-AGRICULTURAL INFLUENCES.	4.57
4	REQUIRE IMPORTED PRODUCTS TO MEET THE SAME QUALITY STANDARDS AS U.S. PRODUCED COMMODITIES.	4.43
5	REPORT BACK TO DELEGATES WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INDICATING RESPONSE TO SUGGESTIONS OF DELEGATES.	4.43
6	REDUCED FOREIGN AID WHERE IT CONFLICTS WITH INTERESTS OF U.S. FARMERS.	4.43
7	WE NEED A FLEXIBLE NATIONAL POLICY THAT ALLOWS FOR MORE LOCAL CONTROL OF REGULATORY POLICIES AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS (EXAMPLES: BLM, EPA, OSHA) PATTERNED AFTER THE ASCS COMMITTEE AND SWCD EXAMPLES.	4.29
8	EXCLUSION OF TAX SHELTERS FOR UNITS OR INDIVIDUALS WHOSE PRIMARY OCCUPATION OR BUSINESS IS NOT FARMING.	4.14
9	ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF USDA FARM PROGRAMS ARE EXCESSIVE. SMALL FARMERS SHOULD BE APPOINTED TO COMMITTEES TO HELP AGENCIES DECIDE WHAT LEVEL OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS SHOULD BE SET AS A REASONABLE STANDARD.	4.14



REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

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| 10 | INCREASE FUNDING FOR ACP PAYMENTS WITH SOME INCREASE IN LIMITS ON PROJECTS. | 4.14 |
| 11 | ELIMINATE ENERGY POLICIES AND PRICING PRACTICES THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST SMALL FARMS. | 3.86 |
| 12 | REQUIRE LABELING OF IMPORTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. | 3.86 |
| 13 | REVISE OR STRENGTHEN LAWS CONTROLLING MANIPULATION OF FARM PRICES. | 3.86 |
| 14 | FMHA AND LAND BANK POLICIES NEED TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE TO ALLOW LOANS TO "UNPROVEN" TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES. | 3.86 |
| 15 | LACK OF LONG TERM GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS PROHIBIT FARMERS FROM PLANNING LONG TERM OPERATIONS. | 3.86 |
| 16 | SUPPORT POLICIES THAT WILL RESTRICT FOREIGN AND NON-FARM CORPORATION OWNERSHIP OF LAND. | 3.71 |
| 17 | COUNTY RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES SHOULD INSURE THAT FARMERS ARE AWARE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS THAT ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH PUBLIC MEETINGS, MASS MEDIA, AND DIRECT MAILINGS. | 3.63 |
| 18 | RESTRICT IMPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. | 3.57 |
| 19 | TAILOR ACREAGE LIMITATIONS ON RECLAMATION PROJECTS TO LOCAL PRODUCTION CONDITIONS SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR ECONOMIC PRODUCING UNITS (NOT NECESSARY 160 ACRE MINIMUM). | 3.57 |
| 20 | DEVELOP AND PASS AN ENERGY PROGRAM THAT WOULD GIVE SMALL FARMERS AN INCENTIVE TO EXPERIMENT WITH ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY SUCH AS SOLAR OR WIND. | 3.43 |



REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

WORKING GROUP X (J)
FARMER COOPERATIVES

PROBLEM RANK	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	AVERAGE PROBLEM RATING
1	PROTECT THE CAPPER-VOLSTEAD ACT.	4.57
2	ORGANIZED MARKETING FOR ALL PRODUCTION FROM THE FARM.	4.43
3	DEVELOP FARM MACHINERY CO-OPS FOR SMALL FARMERS WITH LIMITED ACREAGE THAT WILL NOT SUPPORT PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL FARM.	4.43
4	ESTABLISH MARKETING CO-OPS FOR SMALL FARMERS AS A MECHANISM.	4.43
5	THERE IS A NEED FOR TRAINING AND INFORMATION IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CO-OPS.	4.43
6	CONDUCT "FARMER'S MARKETS" AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, NOT ON AN ORGANIZED STATEWIDE BASIS AS A MAJOR MARKETING OUTLET.	4.29
7	THERE IS A NEED FOR LOW-INTEREST RATE LOANS FOR CO-OPS.	4.29
8	CO-OPS ARE NEEDED TO PROVIDE LOW-INTEREST LOANS AND GRANTS FOR PLANTING AND SELLING CROPS.	4.14
9	THERE IS A NEED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRODUCTION CO-OPS.	4.14
10	THERE IS A NEED FOR CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS TO SECURE USE OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT FROM AGENCIES SUCH AS SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.	3.86



REGIONAL SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

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| 11 | SMALL FARM CO-OPS FACE GREAT RESISTANCE FROM LARGE MONOPOLISTIC INTERESTS. | 3.57 |
| 12 | THERE IS A NEED TO ESTABLISH CO-OPERATING FEED-BUYING CENTERS. | 3.57 |

Seventy-three preconference problems were considered during the conference.

From the 73 problems, 22 were deleted or reworded as new problems.

One hundred and sixty-nine new or reworded problems were added.

The conference delegates rated 220 problems.

The top 20 problems per work group are presented in this conference report (164 problems).

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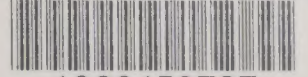
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